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BOROUGH OF AYLESBURY
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT
ANNUAL REPORT
ON THE HEALTH OF THE BOROUGH FOR THE YEAR 1972

A. W. PRINGLE
B. A. , M. B. , B. Ch. , D. P. H. , M. F. C. M. ,
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

G. F. SLOCOMBE
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DEPUTY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

R. WALKER
D. M. A. , M. A. P. H. I. ,
BOROUGH PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

HEALTH COMMITTEE

(Constituted May, 1972)

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Alderman H. D. Smith (Vice-Chairman)

Alderman M. W. Buckingham, J. P. , (Mayor)

Alderman H. W. Poole

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Councillor A. J. Sage, J. P.

Councillor M. G. S. Sheffield

Councillor Mrs. D. M. Winfield

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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BOROUGH PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

R. Walker, D. M. A. , M. A. P. H. I.

DEPUTY BOROUGH PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

D. Andrew, M. A. P. H. I.

DISTRICT PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS

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D. A. Keen

TECHNICAL ASSISTANT

P. T. Ellett (From: 30/10/72)

STUDENT PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Mrs. R. H. Burgess

CLERICAL STAFF

Mrs. V. Tranter

Miss C. J. McCaskie (From: 19/6/72)

BOROUGH OF AYLESBURY

Public Health Department,
Municipal Offices,
Friars Square,
Aylesbury.

July, 1973

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

Although I will be producing an Annual Report for 1973 it is very unlikely that I will be able to present it before the Aylesbury Vale District Council has taken over the reins of Local Government. This is because many of the figures come from the Registrar General's Office, and are not available before April of the following year.

Some of my colleagues will take this opportunity to look back and write about the achievements of the Health Services which have been administered by Local Authorities and will note with regret the passing of the Medical Officer of Health. For myself I feel that these achievements are self-evident and I will content myself by saying that the greatest reduction in mortality over the last thirty years has been brought about not by the introduction of new drugs, although these have played their part, but by the near elimination of dangerous infectious diseases, the improvement in the standard of general nutrition, and better housing. To give all the credit for the improvement in general health to the preventive services would be just as misleading as to ignore the part they have played. There are so many fields where clinical and preventive medicine overlap and so many clinicians who practice good preventive medicine in their several spheres of work that sharp boundaries cannot, and should not, be drawn between these two approaches to medical practice. The fact remains, however, that a relatively small amount of the national resources which are available for expenditure on Health Services have gone to the preventive services. This is a reflection of public attitudes which favour the more obvious benefits of being cured of ailments rather than avoiding the development of them, but there are hopeful signs of gradual change, and if the re-organisation of the National Health Service is to achieve one of its main objectives it will involve a close examination of the allocation of financial resources over the whole field of health care.

The new District Council will have a duty to maintain and expand those health services which this Council has developed over the years. A Community Physician will be seconded to it by the Area Health Board to act in an advisory capacity, particularly with regard to the control of infectious diseases and environmental health. It might seem at first sight that because the Community Physician will no longer be a Chief Officer on the staff of the new Council there might be a less effective link between them, but it would be mistaken to take this view at least while there is a generation of Community Physicians who know from experience how Local Government works. It will involve, however, a re-definition of his responsibilities in relation to the Public Health Inspectorate.

During 1972 the pace of work in connection with the projected changes in Local Government and the National Health Service gathered momentum. Both Members and Officers were engaged in accumulating facts about existing services and the presentation of alternative policies for consideration by the new Authorities. All this meant a great deal of time and hard work. As far as re-organisation of the National Health Service was concerned, the Joint Liaison Committee was formed and started its work of producing a comprehensive profile of all the medical services available in Area 36, the new Buckinghamshire. Although the broad strategy and eventual structure became clearer there were still a multitude of unknown factors as far as the practical working of the service was concerned. It now seems probable that, contrary to general expectations, the new structure will be phased in and will not be fully operative as planned for some considerable time after the appointed day.

Looking at the vital statistics for the year there are several trends worth noting. The birth rate continued to decline, keeping in step with the rate for England and Wales, which probably reflects a trend towards smaller families and an increased use of family planning. The number of illegitimate births expressed as a percentage of total live births also showed a welcome, though small, decrease. Both the death rate and the infant mortality rate were considerably below the corresponding rates for England and Wales, but in assessing the merits of these figures it should be remembered that generally speaking these rates have remained lower in the southern half of the County for many years. It would be fair to say that these differences are due to a combination of climatic, social and economic factors, and the provision of more comprehensive health services in the south.

Tuberculosis

Having reported a record low figure for respiratory tuberculosis in 1971 it is rather disappointing to have to report an increased number of notifications for 1972. In fact, if one looks at the figures over the last ten years it could not be deduced that any real progress towards the elimination of the disease had been made during this period. There are two main factors concerned in this. Firstly, in British born people, the average age of notification has been steadily rising so that now the majority of male cases, and to a lesser extent female cases, are being found in the age groups over 40 years. This means that they are less likely to seek medical advice because of chronic cough, and when they do their condition is easily confused with mild chronic bronchitis or other chest complaints unless they have a chest x-ray. The second factor is the immigrant population, the first generation of whom have a high rate. A survey carried out by the British Tuberculosis Association showed that Indian born persons had twelve times and Pakistani born persons twenty-six times the rate of British born. Of the twelve notified cases, four were of Indian or Pakistani origin. Taking the remaining eight cases, and excluding two young children of the same family, the average age was 45 years. All known methods of attacking the disease are being employed, but for the present, earlier detection of cases and more extensive tracing of contacts offer the best hope of eliminating the remaining reservoir of infection in the community.

New Cases

<u>Year</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Respiratory</u>	<u>Respiratory Cases</u> <u>Rate per 1,000 of Population</u>
1961	27,040	5	5	0.18
1962	29,090	10	7	0.24
1963	31,030	17	15	0.48
1964	32,510	9	7	0.22
1965	33,680	9	6	0.18
1966	34,380	11	8	0.23
1967	35,190	12	11	0.31
1968	35,990	10	10	0.28
1969	36,730	16	14	0.38
1970	36,920	11	8	0.22
1971	41,100	7	5	0.12
1972	40,860	12	12	0.29

Venereal Disease

Figures obtained from the special clinic at the Royal Bucks Hospital showed that during the year three people were treated for syphilis, nineteen for gonorrhoea, and fifty-five for other venereal infections. These figures only differ marginally from the previous year, apart from the cases of syphilis. There were no cases of this disease reported for the previous two years.

Other Infectious Diseases

The incidence of other infectious diseases is given in the tables on page 13 of the Report. Although there were 118 cases of measles notified, this was much below figures recorded before the introduction of immunisation. However, there is clearly scope for further reduction. Encouraging features were the absence of dysentery and whooping cough notifications.

The seven cases of food poisoning were isolated cases, which were all investigated. Several of these were imported cases following holidays abroad.

Drug Dependence

Last year I wrote, somewhat optimistically, that the so-called soft drugs constituted the main problem in the Borough. During the year under review, the Drug Abuse Committee received evidence from the Police and Probation Service, that the use of heroin was becoming more widespread, and certainly the number of prosecutions increased. The heroin was so-called "Chinese heroin" which by the time it reached the consumer was adulterated by mixture with other powdered materials, and to that extent was not so addictive as pure heroin.

The Committee agreed that a Drug Advisory Clinic should be opened, and County Health Department premises in Aylesbury were made available to a member of the staff of the Ley Clinic, Oxford, to hold weekly sessions when advice could be given to any person referred by a social worker, or indeed, from any source. It is too soon to assess whether this Clinic will fulfil a useful purpose, but the number of referrals has been low. It is important to stress that the names of those attending the Clinic are not disclosed to the Committee, and are only known to the social agency involved in the case.

There was some evidence towards the end of the year that this menace to young people was decreasing, locally. The Committee was also interested to learn that those placed in custody did not show any obvious withdrawal symptoms, which suggested that addiction was not far advanced.

Educational Activities

I again had the pleasure of meeting groups of final year medical students to discuss the present and future health services. I am also grateful to have had the opportunity to attend a Management Appreciation Course run by the Oxford Regional Hospital Board, and a number of seminars concerned with re-organisation.

A further two successful courses on Food Hygiene were held at the College of Further Education during the year. Twenty-seven students employed in the food industry locally passed the certificate examination, and will be available to advise their employers on food handling. These annual courses provide a pool of qualified people who must contribute to raising the level of food hygiene.

I started this Report by saying that it would almost certainly be the last which I would present to this Council. The past ten years have seen many changes in Aylesbury, and it can be taken as a compliment to the Borough that so many people have chosen to come here to live and work. There have been considerable improvements over the whole field of health care, although much remains to be done, especially in the provision of more effective medical care for people in their homes. A start in this direction has been made by adopting a team approach which incorporates both medical and supportive services, and which in the long run should result in fewer hospital admissions.

I would like to thank the Members of the Committee, both past and present, for their helpful advice, support and unfailing understanding. I have been fortunate also to have had the help of my deputy, Dr. Slocombe, and full co-operation from the Borough Public Health Inspector and from the staff of the Borough Health Department.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

A. W. PRINGLE,

B. A. , M. B. , B. Ch. , D. P. H. , M. F. C. M.

Medical Officer of Health

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,594 acres
Population (estimated mid-1972)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	40,860
Number of inhabited houses (at the end of 1972 according to Rate Books)	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	12,416
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£2,848,891
Sum represented by a 1p rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£27,839

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

Live Births:-

	<u>1971</u>			<u>1972</u>		
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
Legitimate ...	328	342	670	300	284	584
Illegitimate ...	32	29	61	30	21	51

	<u>1971</u>	<u>1972</u>
Rate per 1,000 population	...	17.79
Rate (corrected)	...	14.77
Rate for England and Wales	...	16.0
Illegitimate live births (per cent of total live births)	...	8.34
		15.54
		14.30
		14.8
		8.03

Still Births:-

	<u>1971</u>			<u>1972</u>		
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
Legitimate ...	5	2	7	3	4	7
Illegitimate ...	-	-	-	-	-	-

	<u>1971</u>	<u>1972</u>
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	...	17.96
		10.90

DEATHS

	<u>1971</u>			<u>1972</u>		
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
Deaths	...	180	152	...	182	152
		332			334	

	<u>1971</u>	<u>1972</u>
Rate per 1,000 population	...	8.08
Standardised Rate	...	10.50
Rate for England and Wales	...	11.6
		8.17
		10.38
		12.1

Deaths of infants under one year of age:-

	<u>1971</u>			<u>1972</u>		
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
Legitimate ...	11	11	22	4	6	10
Illegitimate ...	-	-	-	-	-	-

Death rate of infants under one year of age:-

	<u>1971</u>	<u>1972</u>
All infants per 1,000 live births ...	30.09	15.75
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	32.84	17.12
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...	-	-
Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales	18.00	17.00

Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age:-

	<u>1971</u>			<u>1972</u>		
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
Legitimate ...	8	9	17	2	1	3
Illegitimate ...	-	-	-	-	-	-

	<u>1971</u>	<u>1972</u>
Neo-Natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total live births ...	23.26	4.72

Deaths of infants under one week of age:-

	<u>1971</u>			<u>1972</u>		
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
Legitimate ...	7	8	15	2	1	3
Illegitimate ...	-	-	-	-	-	-

	<u>1971</u>	<u>1972</u>
Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (deaths under one week per 1,000 total live births) ...	20.52	4.72
Perinatal Mortality Rate (still births and deaths under one week per 1,000 total live and still births) ...	29.81	15.58

Maternal Mortality:-

Number of deaths (including abortion) ...	-	-
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	-	-

ANALYSIS OF DEATHS

	M	F
Enteritis and other diarrhoeal diseases..	-	1
Other infective and parasitic diseases..	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, larynx	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, oesophagus	-	2
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	4	1
Malignant neoplasm, intestine	5	5
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	26	3
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	8
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	3
Malignant neoplasm, prostate	1	-
Leukaemia	5	3
Other malignant neoplasms	5	9
Benign and unspecified neoplasms	1	-
Diabetes mellitus	1	6
Other endocrine etc., diseases	2	2
Mental disorders	-	1
Other diseases of nervous system	6	1
Chronic rheumatic heart disease	-	5
Hypertensive disease	4	2
Ischaemic heart disease	46	33
Other forms of heart disease	4	8
Cerebrovascular disease	23	21
Other diseases of circulatory system...	5	4
Pneumonia	11	9
Bronchitis and emphysema...	9	6
Asthma	1	-
Other diseases of respiratory system ..	1	6
Peptic ulcer	1	-
Intestinal obstruction and hernia	1	-
Cirrhosis of liver	-	1
Other diseases of digestive system	-	2
Nephritis and nephrosis	2	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	2	-
Diseases of skin, subcutaneous tissue ..	1	-
Diseases of musculo-skeletal system...	-	2
Congenital anomalies	3	2
Birth injury, difficult labour, etc.	1	1
Other causes of perinatal mortality	1	-
Symptoms and ill defined conditions	-	1
Motor vehicle accidents	4	-
All other accidents	4	-
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	1	1
	182	152

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

Hospitals

The Hospitals serving the Borough are the Royal Bucks, Tindal General, Stoke Mandeville, St. John's and the Manor House Hospital. By agreement with the Oxford Regional Hospital Board cases of infectious disease, excluding smallpox, are now admitted to the Slade Hospital, Oxford. Cases or suspect cases of smallpox may be admitted to the Grove Hospital, Linslade, provided some hours notice of intention to admit is given.

Accident cases are taken to the Accident Department at the Royal Bucks Hospital. There are also orthopaedic and maternity beds at this hospital.

In addition to general medical and surgical beds, and a number of smaller specialist units, Stoke Mandeville has a large unit for paraplegic patients who are admitted from a wide area.

St. John's Hospital also admits psychiatric patients from a wide area, and facilities there have been progressively expanded over the years.

The Manor House Hospital, Aylesbury, provides accommodation for mentally retarded children.

These Hospitals, having a combined total of 1,766 staffed beds, are administered by the Royal Bucks and St. John's Hospital Management Committee. Out patients clinics associated with these Hospitals are also held at Bletchley and Buckingham, and last year 6,372 out patient sessions were held by the group.

Pathology Laboratory, Stoke Mandeville Hospital

Routine samples of ice cream and water and other specimens requiring bacteriological examination were sent to this Laboratory throughout the year. Reports were received with the minimum delay, and the help and advice given by the Medical Director were much appreciated.

Ambulance Services

These are provided by the Bucks County Council and are under the direction of the County Medical Officer. Ten ambulances and seven dual purpose vehicles were available at the Ambulance Headquarters, Buckingham Road, for use in the Borough and surrounding districts. In addition, there is also a purpose built ambulance with an hydraulic tail lift for the conveyance of wheelchair patients. There is two-way radio link between all vehicles and Headquarters.

The Ambulance Car Service which was introduced during 1968 to supplement the directly provided services has continued to prove highly satisfactory throughout the year.

The majority of long distance cases are now conveyed by road owing to the non-availability of suitable rail accommodation. Increasing use is also being made of air travel wherever possible.

All casualties in the Borough are conveyed to the Casualty Department of the Royal Bucks Hospital.

Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics

The following Clinics were functioning during the year:-

<u>Times Open</u>	<u>Clinic</u>	<u>Number of Children Attending</u>	<u>Sessions</u>	<u>Doctor Attended</u>
74	Pebble Lane	678	Every Tuesday, 2nd and 4th Wednesday	73
76	Quarrendon	432	Every Wednesday, 1st and 3rd Tuesday	75
24	Southcourt	194	1st and 3rd Wednesday	24
74	Bedgrove	551	Every Monday and alternate Thursdays	69
<hr/> 248 <hr/>		<hr/> 1,855 <hr/>		

There is no doubt that these Clinics will continue to serve the Borough after re-organisation of the National Health Service. The doctors who attend them will, however, work more closely with the hospital paediatric department and may eventually hold part-time hospital appointments and also some staff at present employed in the paediatric department may do work at the clinics. This two way exchange of duties would help to integrate the services and broaden the experience of doctors who are, after all, concerned with the whole field of child health. A step in this direction has already been taken by the establishment of a combined assessment clinic at Tindal General Hospital. Children who present particular problems in the assessment of retardation and other deviations from normal development are seen by a team primarily composed of the paediatrician, the clinic doctor, a psychologist and a physiotherapist. Other specialists such as the orthopaedic consultant can be called on when their advice is required. This team approach is proving very valuable in planning the social, educational and medical treatment required in the more complex cases.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

	Total Notifications Received			Cases admitted to Isolation Hospital	
	1971	1972		1971	1972
		Male	Female		
Measles	23	60	58	-	-
Whooping Cough	11	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	1	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	4	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	1	1	6	-	-
Infective Jaundice	5	2	3	2	-
Acute Meningitis	-	-	2	-	-
Malaria	-	1	-	-	-

Incidence of Notifiable Diseases during the Year with Analysis under Age Groups

	Under 1 Year	1 - 2 years	3 - 4 years	5 - 9 years	10 - 14 years	15 - 24 years	25 - 44 years	45 - 65 years	Over 65 years	Age Unknown	Totals
Measles	6	15	20	71	5	1	-	-	-	-	118
Food Poisoning	-	1	2	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	7
Infective Jaundice	-	-	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	5
Acute Meningitis	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2
Malaria	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1

TUBERCULOSIS

	New Cases			
	Respiratory		Non- Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F
Age Groups:-				
0-	-	-	-	-
1-	-	-	-	-
5-	4	-	-	-
15-	-	-	-	-
25-	2	2	-	-
35-	-	-	-	-
45-	- (1)	1 (1)	-	-
55-	2	-	-	-
65 and upwards	-	1	-	-
Age Unknown	-	-	-	-
Totals:	8 (1)	4 (1)	-	-

The figures in brackets denote the number of cases notified originally in other districts, and who have moved into the Borough during the year.

SANTARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA

Water Supply

The water supply of the Borough is obtained through the Bucks Water Board from wells situated at Dancers End, New Ground, Hawridge and High Wycombe.

Sampling has been carried out during the year by the Water Authority at their wells and also in the town.

Thirteen samples of water were taken from the main service by this Department during the year, all of which proved to be satisfactory.

All houses in the Borough are connected to the main supply and the quantity of water supplied to the town is adequate.

Sewage Treatment Works

Work on the extensions of the Sewage Treatment Works is well under way, and they should be completed by the end of 1973.

Sludge Disposal

The whole of the sludge produced at the Sewage Disposal works has been disposed of by spraying on farmland surrounding the Sewage Treatment Works.

Public Cleansing

Refuse disposal is still being carried out by controlled tipping at Calvert, but a new pulverisation plant and refuse transfer station is nearing completion at the Sewage Treatment Works, Rabans Lane, and should be in operation by May, 1973.

Open Air Swimming Pool, Park Street

The water in the pool circulates continuously throughout the period of use, being filtered and chlorinated before re-introduction to the swimming pool. Fifteen samples were taken during the year, twelve for chlorine and pH content, and three for bacteriological examination, all of which were satisfactory.

The number of bathers using the Pool during the year was 41,035, compared with 61,185 in 1971. It can be seen from the fall in numbers over the last two years that inclement weather plays an important part in open air pool attendances.

Sauna Bath

The number of attendances at the Sauna Bath during the year was 2,468. The Sauna Bath has proved very popular with members of the public, there being an increase in attendances practically every month, and at peak times potential bathers have had to be turned away.

School Swimming Pools

During the year, and at the request of the County Health Inspector, the Department accepted responsibility for sampling the school swimming pools in the Borough.

Fifty-five samples (thirty bacteriological and twenty-five for chlorine content) were taken during the year. Two of these samples proved to be unsatisfactory due to low chlorination and weather conditions.

Hot Baths

Attendances at the Hot Baths, adjoining the Swimming Pool at Park Street, amounted to a total of 1,334 during the year. The total for 1971 was 1,985.

Schools

The water supply and sanitary accommodation to all schools in the Borough are adequate.

Local Rainfall

January	2.31 ins.	July	1.87 ins.
February	1.98 ins.	August	1.09 ins.
March	2.11 ins.	September	1.07 ins.
April	2.14 ins.	October	0.98 ins.
May	1.92 ins.	November	2.50 ins.
June	1.45 ins.	December	2.55 ins.

(Figures supplied by Mr. G. B. Hannay, Borough Engineer and Surveyor)

Mr. Hannay stated that the total rainfall for the year was 21.97 inches; which was 3.21 inches less than the total for the previous year, and below the yearly average of 24.97 inches. Rain fell on 177 days, compared with 147 days in 1971.

The amount of rainfall for March was the highest recorded for that month for eight years, and the rainfall in August was the lowest for that month for eight years.

The highest daily rainfall occurred on 1st August, when 0.68 of an inch was recorded.

FACTORIES AND WORKPLACES

Informal action has been taken where necessary under the provisions of the Factories Act, 1961, to remedy contraventions of the requirements of this Act, in mechanical and non-mechanical factories and workplaces.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1961

1. Inspections for the purpose of provisions as to health

	Number of		
	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories without) mechanical power) Factories with) mechanical power)	83	-	-

2. Cases in which defects were found

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found			Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted	
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred		(6)
			To H. M. Inspector (4)	By H. M. Inspector (5)	
Want of Cleanliness (S. 1)	3	2	-	2	-
Inadequate Ventilation (S. 4)	1	-	-	-	-
Total:	4	2	-	2	-

Outworkers

There are seven outworkers' premises in the town, all of which are in a satisfactory condition.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOROUGH PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Public Health Department,
Municipal Offices,
Friars Square,
Aylesbury.

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report on the work of the Public Health Department for 1972.

In the latter part of the year Mr. P. Ellett was appointed as a Technical Assistant in the Department.

During the course of the year there was only one important new Act of Parliament, from a public health aspect, and that was the Deposit of Poisonous Waste Act, 1972, which made it an offence to deposit on land poisonous, noxious or polluting waste, and further made it an obligation for a company, who had noxious waste to dispose of, to notify (a) the Local Authority in whose area they were situated, and (b) the Local Authority where the waste was to be deposited. Several firms in the town have noxious waste to dispose of periodically, and this new legislation has ensured that Local Authorities can now exercise control over this.

The Aylesbury No. 2 Smoke Control Order, 1972, was confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Department of the Environment on the 16th August, 1972. The Order, which comes into operation on 1st July, 1973, covers 1,579 domestic dwellings and shops, various industrial premises and other buildings, it covers an area of 388 acres.

HOUSING ACTS, 1961 AND 1969

During the course of the year the survey into the condition of older houses in the private sector was continued and a comprehensive report was submitted to the Council towards the end of the year making recommendations on future clearance areas and how the stock of existing houses could be improved.

In August the Council transferred the administration of the Improvement Grant Scheme from the Borough Engineer and Surveyor's Department to the Public Health Department. In this connection 319 visits were made during the course of the year. The number of applications for Improvement Grants approved in 1972 is as follows:-

Discretionary Grants ...	79
Standard Grants ...	22
Special Grant ...	1

This year there was a substantial decrease in the number of applications for qualification certificates, twenty-three applications were received compared with 128 in 1971.

A survey was also carried out of approximately 10% of all the houses in the private sector built before 1939. Basically this was to provide the Department of the Environment with information relating to the number of houses in the town which satisfied the 12 point standard and those which did not. The result of the survey indicated that there were an estimated 6,000 houses in the private sector which satisfied the 12 point standard, and an estimated 728 houses, the majority of which were constructed before 1919, and excluding those that were considered unfit, which did not satisfy the 12 point standard, but were capable of being improved to that standard.

There were 5,352 Council houses, 5,056 of which satisfied the 12 point standard. Of the 296 remaining, 137 are in the process of being improved, and the balance of 159 are programmed to be improved by the 1st April, 1974.

Number of houses inspected	...	...	70
Inspections and re-inspections	...	...	190
Informal Notices served	...	...	44
Statutory Notices served	...	...	6
Miscellaneous housing inspections	...	...	665
Multi-occupation housing inspections	...	...	78
Improvement Grant inspections	...	...	319
Inspections re qualification certificates	...	...	63

Houses repaired:

By owners	...	...	...	...	33
By the Borough Council in default	...	...	...	...	2

Houses in Multiple Occupation

During the course of the year 78 inspections of houses in multiple occupation were made, this compared unfavourably with 170 inspections in 1971. If a landlord allows his house to become multi-occupied there is no obligation for him to notify the Local Authority, therefore, many of these houses can only be found by a systematic inspection of the district. Pressure of other work, particularly the housing surveys etc., has prevented the Department from spending more time in the inspection of houses in multiple occupation.

A good liaison has been established between the Department and the Department of the Bucks County Council Fire Brigade with regard to the provision of fire safety precautions in houses let in multiple occupation. The Local Authority is responsible for enforcing these provisions, but in these instances, we seek the advice of the Fire Prevention Officer. The normal procedure is for the District Public Health Inspector and the Fire Prevention Officer to make a joint inspection of the premises. I wish to place on record my appreciation of the excellent co-operation which I have received from the County Fire Brigade during the course of the year.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS, 1936 AND 1961

The following table indicates the number of inspections etc., which have been made to premises under the Public Health Acts. During the year the Department was able to clear, free of charge, 110 blocked drains which had been drawn to our attention. In January legal proceedings were instituted under the Public Health (Recurring Nuisances) Act, 1969, for a contravention of this statute. The case was found proved, and the bench imposed a fine of £5.00.

Perhaps the most unusual complaint which was received during the year was from a person who had been arrested and had spent the night at Aylesbury Police Station. He was released the following day, and came to the Department to complain about the condition of the cell with regard to ventilation etc., and also the condition of his bedding. This complaint was dealt with informally.

Number of houses inspected	...	139
Re-inspections to above houses	..	64
Drainage inspections	... ..	312
Drainage tests	... ..	24
Blocked drains cleared by Dept.		110
Nuisances found	... ..	296
Nuisances abated	... ..	284
Informal Notices served	... ..	15
Statutory Notices served and complied with	... ..	21

The Home Dialysis Waste

Recently the Department accepted responsibility for the removal of waste material from the home dialysis machines (i. e., kidney machines). There is an element of risk in the handling of this material, furthermore, it is essential that it is disposed of efficiently, and expeditiously. Every week,

therefore, arrangements are made to pick up this material and take it to the Stoke Mandeville Hospital where it is disposed of by incineration. During the course of the year 141 visits were made for this purpose.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

Food Shops, Restaurants, etc.

The general standard of cleanliness and hygiene in food premises has remained satisfactory throughout the year.

The following table gives details of the inspections which have been made:-

Market Stalls	...	...	...	167
Grocers	...	...	...	186
Butchers	...	...	...	36
Restaurants and Canteens	...			92
Fishmongers	...	...	...	8
Food Preparing Premises	...			26
Fried Fish Shops	...	...		10
Licensed Premises	...	...		24
Bakehouses	...	...	...	20
Miscellaneous Food Premises				95

A substantial proportion of the District Public Health Inspectors time was spent in the administration of this aspect of our duties, 664 inspections of food premises were made compared with 883 in 1971, 20 informal notices, requiring the execution of works, to bring premises up to a standard to comply with the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1970, were served, all the notices were complied with.

During the course of the year a number of new food premises have been opened, and some existing food premises have been renovated and extended. In all these instances the Department has discussed, at the planning and design stage, the proposed works to ensure that any new premises or extended premises would comply with the appropriate Regulations.

Fifteen samples of food etc., were submitted to the Public Analyst, Mr. F.A. Lyne, for examination and report.

Early in the year I attended the College of Further Education at Aylesbury and gave lectures to people who are engaged in the food industry on food hygiene and related subjects.

The amount of foodstuffs surrendered and disposed of from wholesale and retail premises in the Borough is as follows:-

	Tons	Cwts	Qtrs	Lbs
Fruit	-	-	3	18
Eggs	-	19	-	8
Meat	-	9	3	18
Fish	-	-	-	20
Tinned Vegetables ...	-	7	2	22
Tinned Fruit... ..	1	8	1	9
Tinned Meat	-	3	1	10
Tinned Milk	-	1	1	6
Tinned Fish	-	1	-	12
Preserves	-	2	2	26
Miscellaneous	-	18	1	9
Total:	4	12	3	18

Frozen Foods:-	Tons	Cwts	Qtrs	Lbs
Meat	-	4	3	8
Vegetables	-	3	-	25
Fish	-	3	3	15
Fruit	-	-	-	13
Milk Products	-	12	-	6
Miscellaneous	-	5	-	12
Total:	1	9	-	23

Total foodstuffs condemned during the year:-

Total for 1971: 16 tons 9 cwts. 1 qtr. 26 lbs.

Total for 1972: 6 tons 2 cwts. - qtr. 13 lbs.

Sixty-eight complaints, details of which are tabulated below, were received concerning food purchased by members of the public in the town. This is an increase on the 1971 figures, when sixty complaints were received. All the complaints were fully investigated and the appropriate action taken.

List of complaints received

<u>Commodity</u>	<u>Reason for complaint</u>
Glass of Chocolate	Part of fingernail in glass
Gherkins	Unpleasant taste
Loaf of Bread	Excessive moisture
Loaf of Bread	Cockroach
Packet of Rice	Foreign body
Flan Case	Mouldy

List of complaints received (Contd.):

<u>Commodity</u>	<u>Reason for complaint</u>
Sliced Loaf	Foreign object (piece of wood)
Cheese	Metal object
Frosties	Mildew
Packet of Rice	Musty
Sandwich Spread	Unpleasant taste
Fruit Delight	Sliver of glass in jar
Tin of Pineapple	Unusual taste
Meat Pie	Maggot
Sliced Loaf	Foreign body (small pieces of paper)
Milk Bottle	Dirt and maggots (larvae)
Sliced Frozen Beans	Alleged to have caused illness (no pathogenic organisms isolated)
Tin of Minced Beef	Mouldy
Black Pudding	Mouldy
Crumpet	Black foreign body (charred dough)
Tomato Puree	Dark fibrous material (colony of mould)
Beefsteak Pie	Alleged to have caused vomiting (Path report negative)
Malted Fruit Cake	Foreign material (vine stalk)
Chips	Earwig
Lardy Cake	Piece of metal (Prosecution under the Food & Drugs Act, 1955. Section 2. Fined £40 plus £10 costs)
Yoghurt	Stale
Milk Bottle	Piece of glass in bottle
Frozen Rabbit Portions	Faecal contamination
Chips	Foreign body (piece of straw)
Apple Tart	Mouse Droppings
Minced Beef	Unsound
Milk Bottle	Dirty (algae growth)
Jar of Cherry Jam	Cherry Pips
Bottle of Lemonade	Dirty Bottle
Packet of Frozen Peas	Badly discoloured
Chicken Chop Suey	Unpleasant taste
Scotch Egg	Mouldy
Black Pudding	Mouldy
Apple Pie	Mouldy
Raspberry & Recurrant Pie	Mouldy
Chop	Putrefaction
Eggs	Stale
Tin of Tomatoes	Caterpillar
Gourmande Keisch Cheese	Mouldy
Pizza Pie	Mouldy
Cheese Spread	Mouldy
Black Pudding	Mouldy

List of complaints received (Contd.):

<u>Commodity</u>	<u>Reason for complaint</u>
Packet of Smokees	Stale
Bread	Stacked on low wooden tray outside house
Lambs Liver	Bitter taste
Tin of Minestrone Soup	Discolouration inside tin (old stock)
Cheese	Evidence of rodent contamination
Minced Beef	Foreign bodies (plastic parsley)
Creamed Tapioca Milk	
Pudding	Sour taste
Sausage Roll	Mouldy (Prosecution under the Food & Drugs Act, 1955, Section 2. Fined £20 plus £10 costs)
Bread Mix	Insects
Glass of Beer	Serving slops in glass
Rich Tea Finger Biscuits	Bristle
Chips	Served in greaseproof bag and wrapped in newspaper
Loaf of Bread	Mouldy
Tin of Prunes and tin) of Evaporated Milk)	Alleged extraneous material
Beef Steak Pie with Kidney	Insect (young cockroach) (Prosecution under the Food & Drugs Act, 1955, Section 2. Fined £20 plus £5 costs) (Feb: 1973)
Sliced Loaf	Foreign matter
Granary Loaf	Piece of metal
Baby Food	Stale
Chicken Breast	Blue and red deposit
Pork Pie	Discolouration within pastry case

Three prosecutions for offences under the Food & Drugs Act were taken during the course of the year. The first concerned a piece of metal in a Lardy cake. The case was proved and a fine of £40 plus £10 costs was imposed. The second case was for the sale of a mouldy sausage roll, this was found proved, and a fine of £20 plus £10 costs was imposed. The third case was a Beef Steak Pie with Kidney which contained an insect, probably a young cockroach, this case was also proved, and the fine was £20 plus £5 costs.

MILK AND DAIRIES

There are fifty-eight retailers of milk in the Borough registered under the above Regulations.

ICE CREAM

There are one hundred and twenty-one premises in the town registered for the sale of ice cream, in addition, a number of vendors, who are not subject to registration, tour the streets

in mobile vehicles selling ice cream and ice lollies. Most of the mobile ice cream vendors now sell soft ice cream, and the majority of the bacteriological sampling of ice cream, in the Department, is directed towards this outlet.

The following table shows the grading which was given to the various bacteriological samples submitted for examination. Grade 3 and 4 samples are considered to be unsatisfactory, and the principal reason for an unsatisfactory sample being obtained is the inadequate cleansing and sterilisation of the equipment.

Out of a total of 52 samples of ice cream which were examined bacteriologically during the year, 26 were unsatisfactory. This is a very high proportion of unsatisfactory samples, but it must be pointed out that 20 of the samples came from a single mobile ice cream vendor. From the results of our investigations it appeared that there was something radically wrong with the mix which this particular vendor was receiving from an ice cream manufacturer in London. This matter was being investigated by ourselves and our Public Health colleagues in the London Borough when the vendor, mainly because of the trouble involved, decided to switch to another supplier. Subsequent samples from this vendor indicated that his ice cream was of a satisfactory bacteriological quality.

The ice cream samples examined during the year were graded as follows:-

Grade 1	-	18 samples
Grade 2	-	8 samples
Grade 3	-	2 samples
Grade 4	-	24 samples

Forty-six visits were paid to ice cream dealers premises and premises from which mobile vans operated during the year.

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956 AND 1968

On 16th August, 1972, the Secretary of State for the Department of the Environment confirmed the Aylesbury No. 2 Smoke Control Order, 1972. This Area is on the southern side of the town, and is bounded on the south-east by the Bedgrove Smoke Control Area, on the north-east by High Street and Tring Road, on the south-west by Walton Street and Wendover Road, and on the north-west by Exchange Street. The Area comprises 1,579 domestic dwellings and shops, and various industrial premises and other buildings, and covers an area of 388 acres. This Order comes into operation on the 1st July, 1973.

During the course of the year a pilot survey was also carried out in the proposed No. 3 Smoke Control Area, i.e. an area bounded on the south side by Tring Road, the eastern side by the Borough boundary, the northern side by Stocklake, and western side by Park Street. The Area comprises 1,357 domestic dwellings, 1,237 of which are privately owned. In addition there are 22 industrial premises, 26 commercial premises, and 9 other premises, i.e., schools, churches, etc. The No. 3 Area comprises 249.5 acres, and the operative date for the proposed Order is 1st November, 1973. It is estimated that grants under the provision of Section 12(1) of the Act will amount to £16,515, of which £16,275 is in respect of mandatory and £240 in respect of discretionary payments. It will cost approximately £350 to convert appliances in Council owned dwellings in the area.

During the year 52 smoke observations were carried out, and 10 complaints were received concerning emissions of smoke or grit, all these complaints were investigated, and the appropriate action taken.

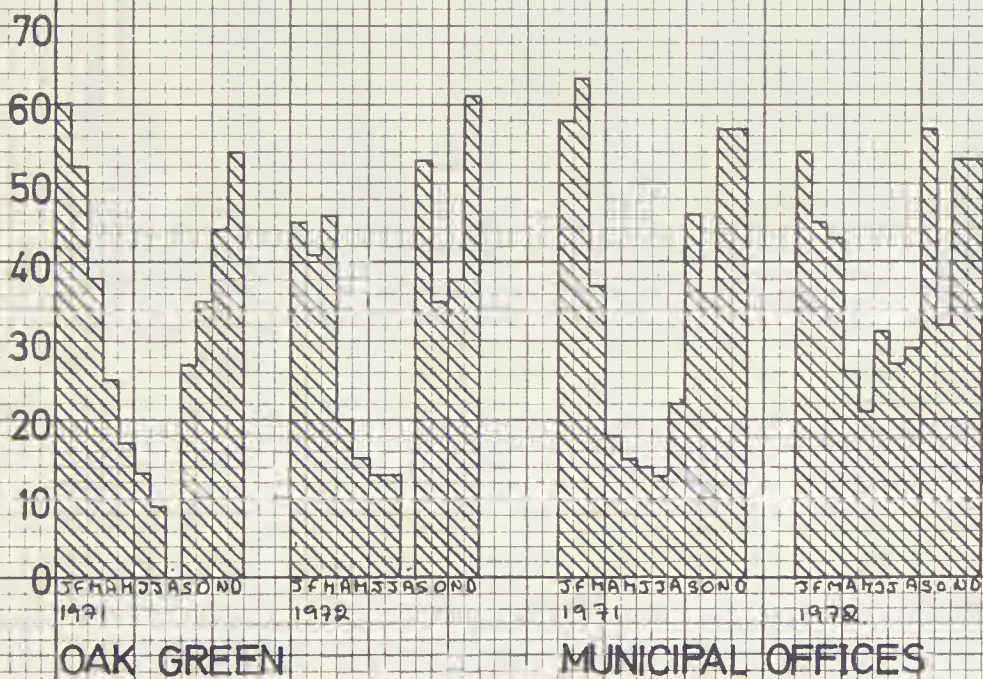
One of the large industrial works in the town is a registered process under the Alkali etc., Works Order. The Department investigates complaints about alleged emissions from this source, and in this we co-operate with the Alkali and Clean Air Inspectorate. During the course of the year the Company changed over from using heavy fuel oil to natural gas. The sulphur content of natural gas is negligible and the sulphur content of heavy fuel oil is of the order of 3 - 4%, this change to a basically sulphur free fuel made a significant contribution to reducing pollution in that part of the town near the works.

Under section 6 of the 1968 Act, seven applications for prior approval of chimneys, serving furnaces, were received during the year.

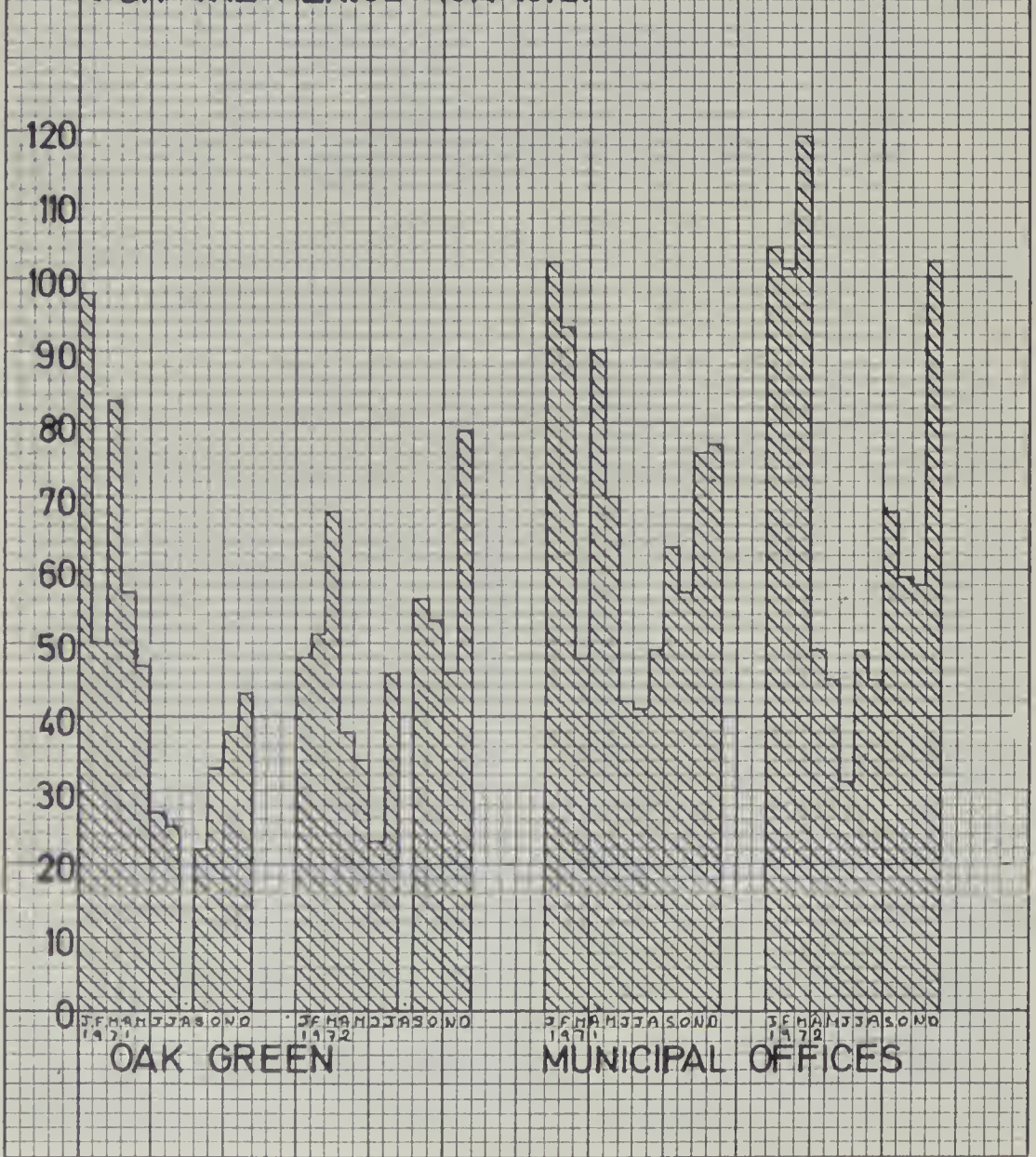
INVESTIGATION OF ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

On the following pages a graph shows the levels of smoke and sulphur dioxide at two recording stations in the town. At Oak Green Station the average concentrations for 1971 and 1972 are very similar, but at the Town Hall Station the 1972 figures indicate an increase of 10% in the smoke concentration and 16% in the sulphur dioxide.

GRAPH SHOWING CONCENTRATIONS OF
SMOKE IN MICROGRAMS/CUBIC METRE
AT TWO RECORDING STATIONS IN THE
TOWN FOR THE PERIOD 1971-1972.



GRAPH SHOWING CONCENTRATIONS OF
SULPHUR DIOXIDE IN MICROGRAMS/CUBIC METRE
AT TWO RECORDING STATIONS IN THE TOWN
FOR THE PERIOD 1971-1972.



OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

One hundred and sixty-two inspections and re-inspections under the provisions of the above Act were made during the course of the year. Twenty-three informal notices for contraventions of the Act were served. Generally speaking, however, the notices were for contraventions of a minor nature.

In a rapidly developing town there will obviously be an increase in the number of office establishments, and in this regard Aylesbury is no exception. During the course of the year nine new office premises have been registered with the Department. Normally, when plans are deposited, showing new office development, the Department liaises closely with the architects and developers to ensure that the office will comply, in all respects with the standards laid down by the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963.

Nineteen accidents were reported during the year, none of which was fatal or serious. All the cases were investigated, and discussed with the firms concerned. Where necessary, appropriate action was taken to prevent a recurrence.

The following table gives a number of statistics in connection with visits to offices and shops:-

Class of Premises	Number of premises registered during the year.	Number receiving a general inspection during the year.	Total number of registered premises at end of year.	Total number of persons employed
Offices ...	9	77	203	2,206
Retail Shops ...	6	136	340	2,431
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses ...	-	7	25	349
Catering Establishments open to the public, Canteens ...	3	14	39	422
Fuel Storage Depots	-	1	1	32

SHOPS ACT, 1950

The administration of the above Act is a responsibility of the Department. During the course of the year fifteen visits were made, to traders, concerning hours of opening, etc. Two informal notices were served for contraventions of the Act.

One complaint was received about unauthorised trading on Sunday.

Early in the year the Department had discussions with the Aylesbury and District Chamber of Trade concerning the making of an Order which would exempt occupiers of certain classes of shops from the provisions of section 1 of the Act, i. e., the requirement to close for a half day. In August, therefore, letters were sent to the occupiers of every shop which was required to close for a half day, asking them to complete a ballot slip indicating whether they wished their particular business to be exempted from the provisions of section 1. One hundred and forty-eight occupiers of shops completed and returned ballot slips, and the occupiers of eighteen different classes of shops voted in favour of being exempted from the provisions of the half day closing. In November, therefore, the Borough Council made an Order exempting the occupiers of the following classes of shops from the provisions of section 1 of the Shops Act, 1950:-

- Ladies and gentlemen's tailoring and outfitting.
- Children's wear and knitwear.
- Furniture, carpets and soft furnishings, china and glassware.
- Sports, riding and camping wear and equipment, and travel goods.
- Giftware and fancy goods.
- Stationery and greetings cards.
- Groceries and provisions.
- Building components and accessories, timber, wallpapers and paints.
- Hardware, kitchen and garden equipment.
- Electrical and gas appliances.
- Television, radio, recording and transcription equipment, records and recording tapes.
- Cosmetics.
- Photographic equipment and materials.
- Toys and kits and accessories for model making hobbies.
- Office equipment.
- Antiques.
- Sewing machines.
- Multiple trade departmental stores.

Precatory Beads

In May there was wide publicity in the national press concerning beads imported into the country which had been found to contain a highly poisonous substance. Because of this publicity several necklaces of beads were brought to the Department for identification, and some were taken to the police station. The police sent us all the beads which had been handed in to them.

Some of the beads handed in fitted very closely the description of the poisonous variety. They were submitted to the Public Analyst for examination, and he reported that all the necklaces contained the Abrus Precatorius seed, this type of seed contains Abrin which is poisonous.

The Department's investigations revealed that one shop in the town was selling necklaces containing precatory seeds, and on the Department's advice they were withdrawn from sale.

NOISE ABATEMENT ACT, 1960

The public is becoming more conscious of unnecessary noise, this is understandable, noise is a form of pollution and apart from being a nuisance, it can be detrimental to the quality of life.

During the course of the year nineteen complaints were received by the Department concerning excessive noise. The noise sources were varied, ranging from industrial premises to domestic dwellings. One complaint was received concerning an ice cream mobile vendor sounding his chimes outside the normally permitted hours. All the complaints were investigated, informal action was taken by the Department, and in many cases improvements were effected.

A total of 71 visits was made in connection with the Noise Abatement Act during the year.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

The following table shows the number of factories in the town, and the number of inspections which were made to ensure that the provisions of the Act, which the Department is responsible for administering, were complied with. No serious contraventions were found, but it was necessary to serve four informal notices, all of which were complied with.

Mechanical factories on register ...	133
Non-Mechanical factories on register	17
Inspections of factories ...	83

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The following table shows the number of visits etc., made by members of the Department in connection with the administration of the above Act:-

Private Premises treated	...	200
Re-visits	...	650
Business Premises treated	...	132
Re-visits	...	410
Local Authority Premises treated		5
Re-visits	...	18
Visits made by Public Health		
Inspectors	...	371
Wasps Nests destroyed	...	63

During the course of the year the Rodent Operator/General Assistant, who had been with the Department for 12 years left, and for nearly two months the Department was without the services of a Rodent Operator. However, during this period the District Public Health Inspectors were able to cope with all the complaints which were received concerning rodent and pest infestations. A new Rodent Operator/General Assistant was appointed in June and after a short period of fairly intensive training this man settled down extremely well into the job to which he had been appointed.

It is interesting to record that wasps proved to be a less serious problem than they had been in the previous two years, only 63 nests had to be destroyed, compared with 187 in 1971. It also became apparent that the population of feral pigeons in the town centre was increasing, it was necessary, therefore, to take measures to control this increase.

The Department has contracts with various Companies in the town, and undertakes to keep their premises free of infestations by rodents. All of these contracts had been calculated on a fixed price cost, some of the contracts going back 20 years or so, and only nominal adjustments had been made to them. All the contracts were updated, and the new contracts, from a costing aspect, now reflect the amount of time and materials expended at the works. In effect, therefore, all the old contracts were cancelled, and the Companies were given the option of entering into a new contract. With one exception all the companies signed new contracts.

The General Assistant in the Department paid periodic visits to the Tip at Calvert to carry out the necessary rodent control treatment.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

The Department is responsible for the administration, staffing and maintenance of the following public conveniences in the town:-

Kingsbury - Ladies and Gents
 Friars Square - Ladies and Gents
 Bus Station - Ladies and Gents

Multi-Storey Car Park - Ladies and Gents
 Cambridge Street - Ladies and Gents
 Cattle Market - Gents
 Cattle Market - Disabled Persons
 Vale - Ladies and Gents
 Old Stoke Road - Ladies and Gents

Early in the year a new system of manning Kingsbury and Friars Square Public Conveniences was introduced. This has resulted in a saving of manpower and costs, and I am satisfied that the public has not been inconvenienced.

All the Conveniences in the centre of the town, with the exception of the Conveniences in the Multi-Storey Car Park, which cannot be closed, are now closed at 10.30 p.m. Since this system was introduced there has been a very considerable reduction in the amount of vandalism that has occurred.

Several new direction signs were put up at strategic points in the town indicating that there is a special Convenience available for disabled persons at the Cattle Market.

PETROLEUM (CONSOLIDATION) ACT, 1928

The Department is responsible for the inspection of petroleum installations and for the issue of licences under the above Act.

Four new petroleum installations were licensed during the year, the tendency now seems to be to replace the traditional type of petrol service station with the self-service and pre-payment type. The licences issued by the Department covered approximately a quarter of a million gallons of petroleum spirit.

The following table indicates the number of licensed premises and the inspections that have been made, etc:-

Licences issued for storage of petroleum spirit and mixtures	70
Licences issued for storage of carbide of calcium	... 1
Inspection of petrol and carbide stores	... 134

Quantity licensed to be stored:-

Petroleum Spirit	251,440 gallons
Petroleum Mixtures	5,426 gallons
Carbide of Calcium	300 lbs.
Total of Licence Fees	£312.00

MISCELLANEOUS

Other work of the Department not covered by any of the previous headings include the following:-

Miscellaneous Visits ...	2, 583
Interviews ...	1, 657
Complaints received and investigated ...	338
Infectious Disease Visits	65

Seven scrap metal dealers are registered in the Borough.

R. WALKER

Borough Public Health Inspector

